

Chemical profile - Indole

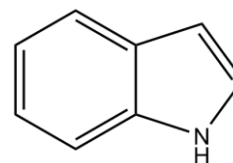
Basic information

IUPAC name: 1H-indole

Other names: 2,3-benzopyrrole

Molecular formula: C₈H₇N

Molecular weight: 117.15 g mol⁻¹



Physical properties

Appearance: Off-white solid

Relative density: 1.17 g cm⁻³

Melting point: 51 – 53 °C

Boiling point: 253 °C

Flash point: 121 °C – closed cup



Occurrence and uses

Indole is naturally occurring in human faeces, coal tar, and natural jasmine oil. It is used as an additive in the food and perfume industries, and is an important reagent in the production of over-the-counter drugs, dyes and pigments.¹

1. See Learn Chemistry Wiki 'Substance: Indole'

Links to curriculum

Functional groups: Aromatic ring, cyclic amine

Concentration calculations: Indole famously smells 'fecal' at high concentrations and 'blossom-like' at low concentrations, it serves as an illustration of the importance of these calculations in the 'real world'



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